

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A wound dressing comprising a therapeutic agent and a matrix comprising polymers joined by cross-linkages which cross-linkages comprise, ~~or consist of,~~ oligopeptidic sequences which are cleavable by a kallikrein such that the rate of release of the therapeutic agent increases in the presence of the protease.
2. (original) A wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the polymers themselves are not degraded by the kallikrein or other factors that may be present in the wound environment.
3. (currently amended) A wound dressing according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the polymer is a synthetic polymer.
4. (original) A wound dressing according to claim 3 wherein the polymer is a polymer of N-(2-hydroxypropyl) methacrylamide (HPMA).
5. (currently amended) A wound dressing according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the oligopeptidic sequences consist of 3 to 15 amino acids.
6. (currently amended) A wound dressing according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 5, wherein the oligopeptidic sequence comprises or consists of -Phe-Arg-Ser-Ser-Arg-Gln- or Met-Ile-Ser-Leu-Met-Lys-Arg-Pro-Gln-.
7. (currently amended) A wound dressing according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 6, wherein the therapeutic agent is an antimicrobial agent, a pain relieving agent, an antiseptic, an analgesic, a local anaesthetic, or a kallikrein inhibitor.
8. (currently amended) A wound dressing according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is incorporated within the matrix.
9. (currently amended) A wound dressing according to claim 8 wherein the wound contacting layer of the dressing may comprise ~~or consist of~~ the matrix within which the therapeutic agent is incorporated.
10. (currently amended) A wound dressing according to claim 8 wherein the dressing comprises a liquid permeable wound contacting layer, an intermediate layer comprising ~~or consisting of~~ the matrix within which the therapeutic agent is incorporated and an outer, liquid-impervious backing layer.
11. (currently amended) A wound dressing according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 7, wherein the dressing comprises a barrier layer which comprises the matrix, the barrier layer being for initially separating the therapeutic agent in the wound dressing from wound fluid when in use.

12. (original) A wound dressing according to claim 11 wherein the barrier layer comprises an apertured sheet having a composition comprising the cross-linked polymers applied thereto in occlusive fashion.
13. (currently amended) A wound dressing according to claim 11-~~or 12~~, wherein a layer of the therapeutic substance is provided behind the barrier layer.
14. (original) A wound dressing according to claim 13, wherein an absorbent layer is provided behind the barrier layer and the therapeutic substance is dispersed in the absorbent layer.
15. (original) A wound dressing according to claim 14, wherein the barrier layer substantially encapsulates the therapeutic substance.
16. (currently amended) A wound dressing according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 10, wherein the wound dressing comprises an absorbent layer and/or a backing layer.